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1962/10/19

~~TOP SECRET~~

October 19, 1962

Steps which would make air strikes more acceptable to blockade group.

1. Prior notice to Khrushchev by message from the President giving Soviets possibility of backing down and strengthening our case with our Allies and world opinion in the event that Khrushchev takes such action as blockading Berlin.
2. Some effort to try to minimize number of Soviets killed, or at least show we wanted to avoid this. Message to Khrushchev might urge him to remove Soviet technicians immediately.
3. Prior notice to our principal Allies, and particularly Turkey and Italy (because of our missile bases there).
4. Prior ultimatum to Castro giving him chance to fold.
5. Prior notification to certain Latin American Governments to allow them to take steps to prevent their being overthrown.

(All these notifications could be short but should be maximum military considerations would allow. None of them need spell out our proposed actions, but should indicate it will be extremely serious.)

6. Some improvement in our position before world opinion. Example -- President might make reference to Soviet construction of "Fishing Port" in Cuba, saying that in view of other Soviet actions we are convinced Soviets were constructing Naval base.
7. No attack on Havana to avoid killing foreign diplomats and thus arousing public opinion against us in those countries.

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